

IN THE CLAIMS

Substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims of the same number:

1. A method for manufacturing a vehicle frame component comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a workpiece;
 - (b) performing a scanning retrogression heat treatment process on the workpiece in a continuous and longitudinal manner from one end to the other to soften the workpiece; and
 - (c) while the workpiece remains softened, deforming the workpiece to form a vehicle frame component.

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